THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such sub-group in Urban Municipal Waste Management has lately been constituted by this Ministry or has prepared a study report.

(b) However, a sub-group, set-up in April, 1990 under the chairmanship of then Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, has made the following important recommendations:

(i) Adoption of better practices at the local level fo. collection, transportation, utilisation and disposal of urban wastes including incentives therefor.

(ii) Setting up of 'Clean-Up-Fund' and pilot projects for the disposal of solid liquid and human waste.

(iii) Collection of data on Urban Wastes.

(iv) Proper disposal of wastes from hospitals.

(v) Greater awareness about waste management.

(vi) Conducting of training programme

The management of waste generated in the urban areas primarily falls within the purview of the local authorities The Central Government, however, provides technical assistance and advice to the States for preparing Action Plans, developing models, supporting R&D and training programmes. Some of the initiatives taken by Central Government are as follows:

(a) Solid Waste Management Demonstration Project has been taken up at Panaji, Goa. Pilot plant for converting garbage into energy pellets is already in operation at Bombay.

(b) Survey in selected cities regarding generation, utilisation and disposal of wastes has been initiated for preparation of pilot projects in this regard.

(c) Rules on Bio-medical wastes are being formulated.

(d) Fiscal incentives such as Excise and Custom Relief for utilisation of fly ash have been notified.

(e) Several awareness programmes on Waste Management have been undertaken.

(f) Training programmes have been conducted on Waste Management Promotion.

(g) Financial assistance for research project for using municipal solid waste for road construction has been provided.

(h) Use of Upflow Anerobic Sludge Blanket Reactor (USAB) Technology for treatment of waste water and vermiculture for converting urban wastes into compost are promoted.

Seizure of Animal Skins

6598. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of animal skins, including those of Royal Bengal Tigers, Tigers, Leopards, Lions and other wild cats, snails and reptiles have been seized in different parts of the country especially in Delhi, if so, what are the details of the cases of seizures, and what is the number of skins of different animals seized, during the past six months;

(b) whether the seizures included the prized Bengal-Tiger-Skins and leopards-skins; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to effectively prevent poaching of wild animals, especially to protect the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Details of seizure of wild animal skins in different parts of the country is compiled by the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States. However, Delhi Police have reported that during the last six

months four tiger skins, two leopard skins, two deer skins and one skin of an unidentified animal were seized.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect the endangered species include:

i. Hunting of Scheduled wild animals have been banned by law.

ii. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

iii. Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat is being implemented.

iv. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

v. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

vi. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). India is a signatory to this Convention.

vii. Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife preservation are set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

viii. Cooperation of Police, BSF, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

ix. There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which, among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

x. A tiger crisis cell has been set up in Delhi under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests and States have been asked to create special strike force in each Tiger Reserve.

Environmental Projects in Gujarat

6599. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Environmental Projects being launched in Saurashtra region of Gujarat with External Assistance;

(b) the amount of aid received in each case;

(c) the progress made so far, project-wise; and

(d) the details of the projects proposed to be launched with external assistance during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Under the World Bank assisted 'Industrial Pollution Control Project' Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) are to be set up at Vapi, Ankleshwar, Sachin, Sarigram and Panoli in Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 75 lakhs has been released to the Government of Gujarat for this purpose. As a part of the above Project, the Gujarat State